

10/048056

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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| Applicant's or agent's file reference VALS592BPCT | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/FR00/02149 | International filing date (day/month/year) 26 July 2000 (26.07.00) | Priority date (day/month/year) 29 July 1999 (29.07.99) |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65D 83/14 | | |
| Applicant VALOIS S.A. | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

| | |
|---|--|
| Date of submission of the demand 22 February 2001 (22.02.01) | Date of completion of this report 29 August 2001 (29.08.2001) |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP | Authorized officer |
| Facsimile No. | Telephone No. |

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International application No.

PCT/FR00/02149

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description. pages 1-5, as originally filed.
 pages _____, filed with the demand,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the claims. Nos. 1-6, 7(in part), as originally filed.
 Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19.
 Nos. _____, filed with the demand.
 Nos. 7 (in part), 8, filed with the letter of 08 August 2001 (08.08.2001),
 Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☒ the drawings. sheets/fig 1/1, as originally filed.
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand.
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims. Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings. sheets/fig _____

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|-------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | 1 - 8 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 1 - 8 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1 - 8 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |

2. Citations and explanations

The invention concerns a liquid product dispenser having two dispensing members mounted on two containers, each dispensing member having a dispensing head through which the product flows by pressure applied to a common plunger.

The closest prior art appears to be document US-A-5 301 841. The dispenser known from said document is made up of two separate dispensers that can be simultaneously activated by means of the common plunger to which pressure is applied by one or more fingers for activating at the same time the two dispensing members that may be pumps or valves.

To ensure that dispensing is localized at the dispenser outlet, the outlet conduits of the two pumps or valves must be located very close to one another in the region of their outlet openings. Given that the dispenser heads are generally made of molded plastic, technical complications arise as regards the molding process, in particular in the use of pins for forming the inner outlet conduits.

The aim of the present invention is to produce a dispensing head assembly for dual dispensing, which is easy to mold and easy to mount on the dispensing members. In order to do this, the present invention proposes a

dispenser in which the two dispensing heads are connected to one another by a flexible strut.

Due to said flexible strut, the two dispensing heads can be molded integrally with the flexible strut connecting them in a position such that the outlet conduits extend parallel and not with an angle therebetween, which would lead to complications as regards the molding pins.

Consequently, the two heads are molded parallel to one another and are then stressed so as to bring their outlet openings side by side by deforming the flexible strut.

The combination of the features of both independent Claims 1 and 7 is not found in the prior art and is not obviously derivable therefrom. Consequently, the subject matter of Claims 1 and 7 is novel and involves an inventive step.

The subject matter of dependent Claims 2 to 6 and 8 also meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).

Moreover, Claims 1 to 8 are considered to be industrially applicable.

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VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

Contrary to the requirement of PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii), the description does not cite document US-A-5 301 841.

(10, 20), each dispensing member being provided with a dispensing head (12, 22) through which fluid is caused to flow by pressing on a common pusher (3), each dispensing head (12, 22) comprising an outlet duct (122, 222) provided at one end with a connection sleeve (121, 221) for connecting it to the dispensing member, and defining at the other end an outlet orifice (123, 223), an angle being formed between the two ducts so that the two outlet orifices are mutually adjacent, said method being characterized in that since the two dispensing heads are interconnected via a flexible spacer (13), the two heads are molded in the same mold with the two outlet ducts extending parallel to each other, the ducts then being stressed by elastically deforming the spacer into a position such that their orifices are adjacent to each other, the heads then being mounted on their respective dispensing members.

8/ A method according to claim 7, in which the two heads are locked in angular position by the pusher (3).

CORRECTED SHEET

This translation of an amended page covers the amendments made in the original. However, the page breaks match the translation, so that this page is also a replacement page that fits in with the remainder of the translation.